

## REVIEW

**Index to Distribution Maps of Pteridophytes in Asia, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition**, by Toshiyuki Nakaike. Supplement No. 1 to the Journal of the Fernist Club, Tokyo. Vol. 3 (2002). 151 pages. Paper-bound (ISSN 0287-3257), USA \$15.00 including postage. 8.25 by 11.75 inches. (In Japanese and English). Place orders to T. Nakaike, Natural History Museum & Institute, Chiba, 955-2, Aoba-cho, Chuo-ku, Chiba City 260-8682, Japan.

Knowing the distribution of organisms is of basic importance in biological sciences. The study of ecology, evolution, biogeography, conservation, and many other disciplines are dependant upon knowing where organisms are distributed. For the scientist and naturalist, the publication, *Index to Distribution of Maps of Pteridophytes in Asia* is a welcome addition to the resource literature. Because of the broad application of this publication and because it may be used by readers of English, I would like to draw it to the attention of Western botanists. This book contains the literature sources that show distribution maps of Asian pteridophytes.

The first few pages (pp. I–VII, in Japanese) point out the importance of distribution maps to biology and give the history of the index. The first edition (Nakaike, 1998) was privately published and commemorated the completion of the monumental 8-volume work entitled *Illustrations of Pteridophytes of Japan* (Kurata & Nakaike, eds., Vol. 1–8. Pp. 5333. University of Tokyo Press, Tokyo, Japan, with the cooperation of the Japan Fernist Club [In Japanese with Latin names]). Among the information for each pteridophyte entry in these volumes is a map showing its distribution in Japan. In the 18 years it took to complete these volumes, much information needed to be added and updated. Updating the pteridophyte distribution on maps lead to the first edition of the *Index to Distribution Maps of Pteridophytes in Asia*. Further expansion and updating developed into this second edition (Nakaike, T. 1998. *Index to Distribution Maps of Pteridophytes in Asia*. Private press edition, Tokyo. 99 pp. [In Japanese and English, Latin names]).

The pages in the next section (pp. VII & VIII, in Japanese) explains how to use the index, and delineates the terms and symbols used. The symbols are self-explanatory in Japanese or English. All ranks of Asiatic taxa from families to cultivars and nothospecies having maps are listed in the index. Taxa that extend beyond the Asiatic area are also included in the index if they are mapped.

The following section (pp. 1–8, in English) is entitled *Literature Cited*. The 148 literature citations give the author, date of the publication, title of the paper, volume, number, page or publisher. The date of the latest literature citation is for 2001.

The body of the index follows immediately (pp. 9–124). The names of the genera and of the species used are based on those given in the first edition



of the *Index to Distribution Maps of Pteridophytes in Asia* (Nakaike, 1998), *Illustrations of Pteridophytes of Japan*, Vol. 8, pp. 467–473 (Kurata & Nakaike, 1997), and *The New Flora of Japan Pteridophytes Revised and Enlarged* (Nakaike, T. 1992. Shibbundo Co., Ltd. Publishers, Tokyo. 868 pp. [In Japanese with Latin names]). Synonyms are listed in the index and cross-referenced to the accepted name; names without authors (*nomina nuda*) but with maps are also included in the index. All entries are arranged alphabetically. After each taxon entry the region or country of the distribution map is given followed by the name of the author, the date of publication and the page. By noting the author of the maps and the bibliographic citation, the complete reference may be located in the *Literature Cited* section. A separate index (pp. 125–151) lists the Japanese names of the ferns in Japanese script. These names are cross-references to the scientific names in English. Every other page of the body of the index, whether in English or Japanese has a black and white drawing of a fern occupying slightly less than one-quarter of the page. Where the index is in English, captions to the picture are in English. The fern illustrated corresponds to a fern listed on the same page. In the Japanese index, the captions are in Japanese. Some of these handsome line drawings are credited to older publications but most are from recent or as yet to be published Japanese work.

This book admirably fulfills its foremost function, and that is to help the researcher find distribution maps for Asian ferns. The nomenclature is updated and generic names are similar to those in Western usage. In any case, since common synonyms are listed, unfamiliar generic names are not a problem. The absence of author citations to the scientific names may be confusing for a few species. The inclusion of hybrids, varieties and cultivars in the listing is helpful for these categories are often omitted in other botanical indexes. Another use for this index is that it can serve as a checklist of all the known Japanese ferns. Names of Asian ferns and their literature sources are difficult to locate in many Western botanical libraries and most Western botanists are not familiar with Asian fern literature, so this index may be used as a reference source for a variety of purposes. The extensive listing of updated Asian fern names, though not complete, makes it a handy reference to rapidly check spelling and to locate other studies on Asian ferns through the literature cited. Particularly well represented are fern distribution maps of China (Guangzhou Province in particular), Thailand, Nepal (Katmandu) and monographs that have maps of Asiatic species. Other areas having an abundance of maps are Korea and Taiwan. Less frequently cited as having fern maps are Circumpolar areas, Malesia, Russia, India, Burma, and Vietnam. A few listings appear for the Mideast and Turkey. The paucity of maps does not necessarily mean that the fern distributions are not known, but rather it may be because maps are lacking.

Considerable care was put into the editing of this publication and typographical errors are very rare, no small task when English is not your native language. The author is to be congratulated for undertaking such a laborious task to give fern workers such a helpful resource book. It will make the



research process that much easier in many disciplines and will be a handy reference to use for Asian ferns. That the working part of the book is in English and is so reasonably priced will make this publication well worth a place on the reference shelf of fern researchers in a variety of disciplines.

I wish to express my gratitude to Takeko Hayashi for the translations from Japanese and to Kenneth A. Wilson for his editorial help.—BARBARA JOE HOSHIZAKI, 557 N. Westmoreland Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90004-2210.

Note.—The separate issues of the *Illustrations of Pteridophytes of Japan* are as follows:

Kurata, S. & T. Nakaike (eds.),

1979. *Illustrations of Pteridophytes of Japan*, vol. 1. 628 pp.

1981. *Illustrations of Pteridophytes of Japan*, vol. 2. 648 pp.

1983. *Illustrations of Pteridophytes of Japan*, vol. 3. 628 pp.

1985. *Illustrations of Pteridophytes of Japan*, vol. 4. 850 pp.

1987. *Illustrations of Pteridophytes of Japan*, vol. 5. 816 pp.

1990. *Illustrations of Pteridophytes of Japan*, vol. 6. 881 pp.

1994. *Illustrations of Pteridophytes of Japan*, vol. 7. 409 pp.

1997. *Illustrations of Pteridophytes of Japan*, vol. 8. 473 pp.

University of Tokyo Press, Tokyo, Japan. (In Japanese with Latin names)